EPIC COMICS

Timespirits™

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HEY, IT'S **ARCHIE GOODWIN**, EDITOR OF MARVEL'S **EPIC COMICS** LINE! BECAUSE I'M INTO MY BUSY SUMMER PERSONAL APPEARANCE PERIOD (CHECK CONVENTIONS AND COMIC STORES IN **YOUR** NEIGHBORHOOD), I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO REALLY **READ** THIS ISSUE OF **TIME SPIRITS**, BUT I CAN TELL AT A GLANCE THEY'RE FINALLY DOING **MY** KIND'A THING! INSTEAD OF NAMBY BAMBY TIME TRAVEL STUFF, THERE'S GUTSY JUNGLE WARFARE ADVENTURE! AND AS AN OLD WAR COMICS EDITOR, I'M READY! NO MORE SILLY COSTUME FOR ME TO WEAR... EPIC COMICS GOES **RAMBO!** FORGET MY USUAL PLUGS FOR OUR **OTHER** TITLES LIKE **COYOTE, MOONSHADOW,** AND **THE ONE!** THIS TIME I'M FIGHTIN' BACK... AND I'M FIGHTIN' TO **WIN!**

ARCHIE...PSSSST...**ARCHIE!** BEFORE YOU GET **TOO** EXCITED, THOSE PEOPLE YOU'RE SO EAGER TO HELP **WIN** THIS ISSUE ARE THE **BAD GUYS!**

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CAN YOU TRAVEL THROUGH TIME?

GO BACK IN YOUR HEAD. NOT TO YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY OR EVEN A WORST NIGHTMARE. BUT JUST TWO MONTHS TO LAST ISSUE...

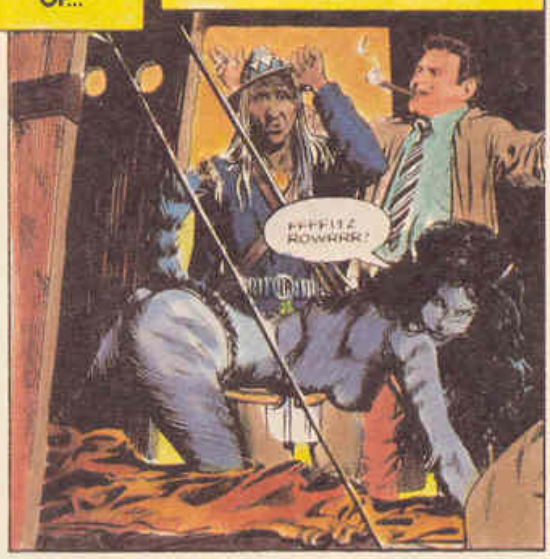
WHEN CUSICK THE TUSCARORA AND DOOT OF THE WAWENOC...

...THE [redacted]

...MISSED THE LAWRENCE WELK SHOW BY A FEW EONS AND LANDED AT A ROCK ARENA IN A RATHER NASTY FUTURE WHERE THEY MET SOME KIDS...

...AND S'LADA, THE DOWN AND OUT MANAGER OF...

...THORNEYPAWS, A HOMESICK ALIEN SINGER WHOSE SONG MIXED WITH DOOT'S TIMEDANSE DURING A HOLOGRAPHIC CONCERT BY...



...JIMI HENDRIX...

...AND VACUUMED HIS SPIRIT FROM THE MOMENT OF HIS DEATH ACROSS TIME TO IMBUE THE HOLOGRAM WITH IT, AND BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE.

LIFE IN A FUTURE WHERE MUSIC AND PEOPLE WERE SO EXPLOITED THAT THEY EXISTED ONLY TO GENERATE EMOTIONS.

EMOTIONS THEN DRAINED OUT AND LABELED PROFIT BY MR. RYBAK, DIRECTOR OF THE KA CORPORATION.

A WORLD ENTHRALLED BY THE CORPORATE STRUCTURE RIGHT DOWN TO DNA STRANDS AND BODY FUNCTIONS. A WORLD SO MIRED IN WRONG THE ONLY POSSIBLE FREEDOM WAS DESTRUCTION, AND EVEN THAT PROVED PROFITABLE. A WORLD UNCHANGABLE...

...UNCHANGABLE...

...UNLESS, OF COURSE, CUSICK THE TUSCARORA CAN PINPOINT THE INSTANT IN TIME WHEN HISTORY WAS IRREVOCABLY HURLED DOWN THE COURSE THAT ENDED IN MR. RYBAK'S COMPLETE DOMINATION OF LIFE.

FIND THAT INSTANT AND CHANGE IT SO NONE OF LAST ISSUE EVER HAPPENED.

SO COME ALONG, WON'T YOU...?

FIRST, TO THE JUNGLES OF CENTRAL AMERICA...
NOT BAD! NOT BAD! I'VE ONLY MISSED BY ABOUT 30 METERS!
STRAIGHT UP, THOUGH, ISN'T IT?
I'D SAY YOU'D BEST GET QUICKER WITH THAT GRAVITY RATTLE, DOOT, 'LEAST 'TILL YOU GET FLYING DOWN A BIT BETTER.
NOW SET EVERY-ONE DOWN GENTLY AND LET'S STOP PLAYING GAMES! WE'RE HERE ON A MISSION! AND HERE'S WHERE WE BEGIN.
FITZZ ROWRR?
I HATE JUNGLES.
IS THIS TOMORROW? OR THE END OF TIME?
EITHER ONE, JIMI, ME BOY, IT'S JUST A POINT OF POWER, RIPE WITH IT'S OWN SPECIAL RHYTHMN. IT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND... THE...
THE JUNGLE BEAT
Dedicated to the Indians of Guatemala
ANYWAY, IT'S A NIFTY HIDING PLACE FOR...
THE FALLS OF VISION!
DOOT, ME BOY, PAY ATTENTION HERE! THIS PLACE IS A VITAL PIECE 'A KNOWLEDGE FOR ANY YOUNG TIMESPIRIT. A BIT 'O REFRESHMENT FROM THE FALLS'LL GIVE US A CLEAR VISION OF WHAT WE WANT.
IN OUR CASE, THAT'D BE THE SPECIFIC TIME-ZONE WE NEED TO FIND.
SETTLE DOWN, THORNEYPAWS. I KNOW IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR HOMEWORLD, BUT IT'S NOT!

I'M A BIT ASHAMED I DIDN'T KNOW THE ANSWER RIGHT OFF, BUT WE COULDN'T LET MR. RYBAK KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
...HEY! COME BACK HERE!
NOW WOT?
THORNEYPAWS!
...SHE MAKES ME SO MAD...
...THE FOOLISH THING THINKS SHE'S HOME, ON PHEE IV. WE'LL NEVER CATCH HER NOW.
...UM ...UM ...CUSICK?
YES, YES...I KNOW. THE SPELL OF FEET.
YOU KNOW THERE'S EASIER WAYS TO CATCH HER. TELL ME, POOT, WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOU YOUNGSTERS...
...AND NEW SNEAKERS?
I...I LIKE HOW THEY FEEL.

YOU MIGHT NEED THESE TOO I SENSE SOMETHING QUEER AFOOT.
I LIKE TO...
...RUN FAST!
FIND HER AND HURRY BACK, DOOT! I WANT YOU TO MEET AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE...
HEY, MAN ...PEACE!
...CABEZA DE LA BRACA!
CUSICK?
CUSICK THE TUSCARORA!
ME OLE FRIEND CABEZA! TOLD YOU I'D BE BACK ONE 'A THESE YEARS!
I NEED YOUR HELP, CABEZA. SEE, ME AN' ME FRIENDS HERE ARE ON A QUEST, SEEKIN' TA SEE THAT A POSSIBLE FUTURE NEVER COMES ABOUT, AND BETWEEN YOU AN' ME...
...I'M A BIT LOST. HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST ON WHAT I'M LOOKIN' FOR.
AND YOU REQUIRE A VISION.
SHARP AS A POINT, YOU ARE! SAME AS EVER!

AND YOUR BOAT'S STILL STUCK, I SEE. SAME AS EVER.
SHE'S A SHIP, CUSICK, NOT A BOAT. IF THINGS HAD BEEN DIFFERENT SHE'D BE THE FIRST SHIP ON THE PACIFIC, BUT A CERTAIN INDIAN I KNOW GAVE ME WRONG DIRECTIONS TO THE ISTHMUS.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, BUT AT LEAST YOU FOUND THE FALLS!
TRUE... AND I FORGIVE YOU. OUR LIFE AT THE FALLS HAS BEEN PERFECT BLISS OVER 400 ODD YEARS NOW.
400 YEARS?
I ARRIVED HERE IN 1512.
OH, DEAR I'VE MISSED BY MORE THAN 30 METERS. THAT MEANS IT ISN'T 1512 AT ALL
IT'S THE 1980'S, RIGHT? NO WONDER YOUR BOAT IS ALL ROTTED!
SHE'S A SHIP.
WHAT WE SEE DEPENDS MAINLY ON WHAT WE LOOK FOR. AND I'M LOOKING FOR A NEW CLIENT. YOU'LL NEED A MANAGER, JIMI...
FORGET IT, MAN, I DON'T WANT A MANAGER.
...ER, GROOVY, JIMI BABE. LIKE SILENCE IS GOLDEN. WE'LL TALK LATER.
IMAGINE THAT... ME MISSING THE MARK BY 400 YEARS. MUST BE GETTING OLD! DID I TELL YOU ABOUT ME BOY? ME YOUNG TIMESPIRIT...
"...DOOT OF THE WAWENOC..."

LET ME TEACH YOU...
...THE SPELL OF TONGUES...
MMMPFF!

I UNDERSTAND
I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO S'LADA. I WON'T TAKE YOU BACK. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A ROCK STAR IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
THEY'LL UNDERSTAND...
RRADADRAD
OWWW!

BRAR BRAP
FITZ.' ROWR!
FITZ ROWR?

ELSEWHERE, A WHILE LATER...
ALEJOS, WE'LL ALL BE RICH. NO MORE JUNGLES, NO MORE EL STUPIDOS, JUST A BIG PLUSH DESK WITH NOTHING TO DO BUT MAKE THE BUCKS.
I HAVE IT ON HIGH AUTHORITY YOUR OLD MAN'S BEING CONSIDERED TO HEAD A NEW CORPORATION BEING FORMED BY MY... HUH?
WIMP.
PANTHER DEMONS... A PANTHER DEMON!!!
WHERE IS YOUR GUN... FOOL?
EASY, SERGEANT. FIRST YOU GET THE INFORMATION.
NOW WHAT'S THIS ABOUT PANTHER DEMONS? WERE YOU ATTACKED BY A JAGUAR?
IT WAS WOMAN-CAT! PANTHER DEMON! AND.. INDIAN.. LIKE IN MOVIES! WE SHOOT...
THEN... PANTHER DEMON ATTACK! ALL DEAD EXCEPT ME...
THAT'S NOT AT ALL WHAT I WANT TO HEAR.
ALEJOS, THIS MAN IS USELESS. TEACH HIM A LESSON.
THEN WE'LL FINISH NEUTRALIZING THIS COMMIE NEST
IF YOU WANT US TO KEEP SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO YOUR JUNTA'S NATIONAL GUARD, IF YOU WANT U.S. BACKING TO CONTINUE, THEN REMEMBER...
THIS IS NOT A WEEKEND WAR! WE'RE NOT PAYING YOUR SUPERSTITIOUS MEN TO RUN AWAY!
BLAM

WASN'T THERE A BRIDGE HERE LAST WEEK ?
BUT SIR, YOU HAD US BLOW IT UP LAST WEEK.
HRUMPH... YES, WELL, REMIND ME WHEN WE GET BACK, TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS.
THE REBELS ARE BLOWING UP BRIDGES IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO DE-STABILIZE THE COUNTRY."
ONE THING, SIR. WE FOUND THIS ONE HIDING IN THE MUD LIKE A PIG.
HEAD-ACHES! HEAD-ACHES!
GET RID OF THE PEEG. SHE GIVES ZE BOSS ZE HEADACHES.
"..WHAT A HEADACHE, DOOT SHOULD BE BACK BY NOW. CABEZA."

CABEZA DE LA BRACA...
...YOU MAKE A FINE BANANA WINE, AN' IT'S QUITE LOVELY 'ERE.
BUT I'VE GOT A PECULIAR SHIVER THAT SAYS SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO ME BOY DOOT.
MAYBE ZE T'ORNEYPAWS, SHE TOO MUCH FOR YOUNG TIME-SPIRIT?
YOU WORRY LIKE AN OLD HEN, CUSICK. THIS JUNGLE HOLDS NO MYSTERIES, ESPECIALLY FOR A TIME-SPIRIT. DON'T WORRY, YOU JUST STAY HERE AND GET YOUR VISION PREPARED.
STILL, HE SHOULD 'A BEEN BACK BY NOW.
I'D LIKE TO COME ALONG.
WE NEED EVERYONE FOR THE VISION, OR WE'RE APT TO FORGET ALL ABOUT MR. RYBAK AND THE KA CORPORATION.
AND WHERE WOULD THAT LEAVE JIMI, OR S'LADA...
"...OR EVEN THORNEYPAWS HERSELF?"
"LOST I'D SAY..."
IT'D LEAVE 'EM LOST."
WYRRRRRRR
THORNY-PAWS, WHAT HAPPENED?

C'MON ALEJOS, THEY CAN CATCH UP.
I'VE GOT TO GET BACK IN TIME TO FLY YOU TO THE GROVE NEXT WEEK.
O.K. ... YES, SIR.
PRONTO, YOU TWO! HEH, HEH..
WRRUUMMUUMUM
THRASH
CRASH
OX!!
GROAN

THANK YOU, DOOT, WHATEVER YOU CAN DO WILL HELP MY VILLAGE.
"... MY VILLAGE ..."
HEARD THE SCREAM FROM CENTER 42, LOUD ENOUGH TO BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT. THE OPPOSITIONS TONGUE IS CUT IN TWO, KEEP OFF THE STREET 'CAUSE YOU'RE IN DANGER
ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DISPAROS, LOST IN THE JAILS IN SOUTH AMERICA, CUDDLE UP, BABY...
WELL, KEITH AND MICK ARE CARRYIN' ON ALL RIGHT. BUT I STILL MISS BRIAN'S TOUCH.
CANTINA
AMERICANO ?
NO, MAN, I'M SWEDISH.
CUDDLE UP TIGHT, CUDDLE UP, BABY, KEEP IT ALL OUT OF SIGHT...
... UNDERCOVER, KEEP IT ALL OUT OF SIGHT, UNDERCOVER OF THE NIGHT!
BAM
POW
HONK
FORGET THE AMERICANO. LET'S GO HELP THE OTHERS.
BRAP BRAP
BANG
POW
CANTINA

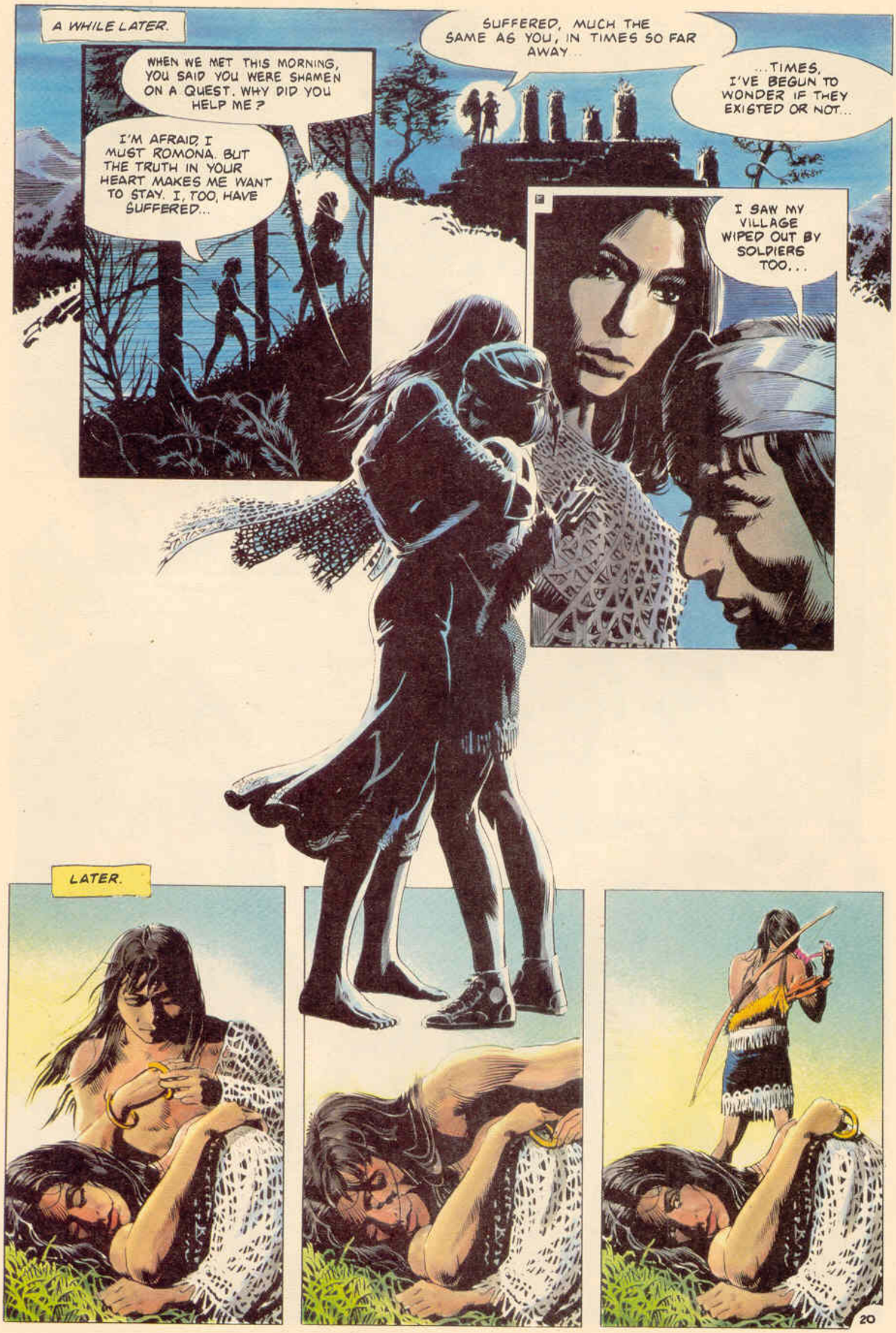
"...THEY FOUND A NEST OF VICIOUS REBELS."

BANG
THIP
AAIIIEE
BLAM
POW
BLAM
BLAM
BRAP
BUDDA BRAP
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
THIP
YEOW!
QUE PASA?

MY VILLAGE... YOU WERE TOO LATE.
WHERE IS EVERYONE?
JIMI, CUSICK WANTS EVERYONE BACK AT THE FALLS OF VISION
TAKE A LOOK IN THE OUTHOUSE, CABEZA.
...WHY...?
THIS STINKS.
THEY... WERE MY PEOPLE.

RAMONA?
YES, MY STRANGE FRIEND, DOOT?
WHO WERE THOSE MURDERERS?
THE NATIONAL GUARD OF OUR COUNTRY.
WHY WERE THEY KILLING THEIR OWN PEOPLE?
BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT SOMEONE THERE WAS TEACHING INDIANS TO READ.
BECAUSE THEY ARE STUPID. THEY REFUSE TO CHANGE THE WAYS OF THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS. CONTENT TO PRY ON THEIR BROTHERS, SO LONG AS EL NORTHE KEEPS GREASING THEIR PALMS WITH ECONOMIC AID.
THEY CLAIM TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOM BY FIGHTING FOR IT.
PROTECT?
THE CORPORATION WILL NEVER PULL OUT AS LONG AS WE ALLOW THEM TO EXPLOIT US.
CORPORATION. I KNOW THAT WORD.
YES CORPORATION, DOOT, WHO IS FREE TO MAKE MILLIONS WHILE WE'RE FREE TO DIE IN POVERTY. UNEDUCATED...
BURNED ALIVE BY GREED, FREE TO BE TOURCHED AND MURDERED EVEN IN OUR CHURCHES.
FREE TO STARVE IN A LAND OF PLENTY BECAUSE OUR FARMLAND IS USED TO GROW EXPORT CROPS.

THIS IS OUR CAMP WHERE WE CARRY ON THE STRUGGLE
THANK YOU, ROMONA
YOU ARE WELCOME TO STAY WITH US.
CONTRAS
EGP
SO TELL ME. WHO ARE THESE COMPANIES?
PROFIT, POWER, MONEY, GREED, BLINDNESS, UNCARING...
THEY JUST THINK THEY'RE SUPERIOR
THEY MAKE INCREDIBLE PROFITS BY PAYING US RIDICULOUSLY LITTLE TO WORK THEIR PLANTATIONS UNDER CONDITIONS THEY COULD NEVER GET AWAY WITH IN THEIR OWN LAND.
THE BIG BANKS FINANCE IT, THE GOVERNMENT ENFORCES IT, AND AGRIBUSINESS SLOPS UP THE PROFITS
WE LIVE IN GREAT MISERY WITH A SELECT FEW THAT ENJOY FABULOUS BENEFITS OUR REVOLUTION WILL END THOSE WAYS.
EL NORTHE FEARS THIS IN THE POCKETBOOK, WHERE IT HURTS THE MOST.
JUANITA WILL SHOW YOUR FRIENDS WHERE TO SLEEP.
DOOT, YOUNG SHAMAN, I WOULD HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.


A WHILE LATER.
WHEN WE MET THIS MORNING, YOU SAID YOU WERE SHAMEN ON A QUEST. WHY DID YOU HELP ME?
I'M AFRAID, I MUST ROMONA. BUT THE TRUTH IN YOUR HEART MAKES ME WANT TO STAY. I, TOO, HAVE SUFFERED...
SUFFERED, MUCH THE SAME AS YOU, IN TIMES SO FAR AWAY...
...TIMES, I'VE BEGUN TO WONDER IF THEY EXISTED OR NOT...
I SAW MY VILLAGE WIPED OUT BY SOLDIERS TOO...
LATER.

LET IT GO, YOUNG TIMESPIRIT. ROMANA'S VILLAGE IS DEAD
CUSICK REQUIRES YOU, AND THE OTHERS, FOR HIS VISION CEREMONY. COME PAST THIS PLACE OF GHOSTS.
IT'S GETTING DARK AND I WANT TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THIS PLACE.

DOOT!
I KNEW YOU'D GET INTO TROUBLE!
HAD ME A LITTLE CHAT WITH THESE LOCALS' ANCESTORS. THERE'S BEEN INCREDIBLE EVIL DONE TO THIS LAND IN THE NAME OF THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR.
WHO IS THIS GOD, "DOLLAR"? CAN WE STOP HIM?
WHY, IT SEEMS YOU'VE GOT A GRAZING HEAD WOUND. JUST LIKE IN THE TARZAN MOVIES.
CUSICK, THIS PLACE, IT LOOKS SO BEAUTIFUL, BUT IT'S AS AWFUL AS THE FUTURE... MAYBE WORSE.
THE VILLAGERS WHO LIVED NEAR HERE WERE BUTCHERED! JUST LIKE MY TRIBE.
I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU, TRAITOR.
HE'S THE SAME GOD WHO MASSACRED THE WAWENOC, DOOT... AND SO MANY OTHERS...
CUSICK, ALL IS READY.
22

NOW THEN, MAYBE THIS ORACLE CAN SHOW US THE ANSWER TO STOPPING MR. RYBAK'S KA CORPORATION...
...AND I'VE A HUNCH THAT THE LOCAL OPPRESSION S.T.ED .N REAL INTIMATELY.
TO KNOWLEDGE AND RIGHT!
HERE IT COMES... GET SET!
IS THAT THAT FAT ALEJOS, IN THE DRESS?
THEY APPEAR TO BE MONKS HAVING A PARTY. THAT SEEMS A BIT PECULIAR, UNLESS THEY ARE NOT MONKS AT ALL. BUT IT DOES SEEM TO BE WHERE HISTORY STARTED ITS' MARCH DOWN THE PATH THAT LEADS TO THE CREATION OF THE KA CORPORATION.
PINK ELEPHANT
BY THE ONE ABOVE US! WHAT'S THAT?
HEY, CUSICK, I KNOW THAT BAR AND IT'S RIGHT NEAR THIS GROVE WHERE THE FAT CATS GO TO PLAY.

THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE PLACE! GET THE TIME VAPORS READY!
WE'VE GOT A PARTY TO CRASH!
GOOD BYE, ME OLE FRIEND...
YOU... YOU BELONG WITH THORNEYPAWS...
HEY! LET GO... I'M NOT SPEAKING TO HER.
SHE LOVES YOU.
SHE DOES NOT.
THORNEYPAWS, SING HIM THE SONG YOU SANG ME.
YOU REALLY FEEL THAT WAY? YOU SHOULD'A TOLD ME... I'D GIVE UP THE WORLD FOR YOU, KITTEN.
THEN YOU STAY HERE, WHERE SHE'S HAPPY AND YOU CARVE OUT A GOOD LIFE FOR YOURSELVES.
AND CABEZA'LL HELP IF YOU NEED IT!
BUT NOW WE MUST BE OFF! OFF TO HELP OLE JIM!

OFF TO CHANGE THE FUTURE! SO REMEMBER, ME FRIENDS...
..A FELLA'S NEVER TO BE CALLED HOMELESS WHILE THERE'S A CAMP-FIRE AND A GOOD FRIEND ABOUT.
GOODBYE! GOODBYE!
AYE WOT?
MEN
'SCUSE ME, SIR, BUT WOULD YOU KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF A BIG PARTY AT A CERTAIN GROVE?
WA' HELL, IT'S JUST DOWN THE ROAD THERE...
...BUT YOU GUYS 'LL NEVER GET PAST THE GUARDS!
PINK ELEPHANT
WELL, I WAS CLOSE. C'MON, GENTS, LET'S TRY AGAIN.
TWO INJUNS AND A NIGGER WALKIN' OUT THE JOHN ALWAYS MAKES ME SUSPICIOUS, 'SPECIALLY WHEN THERE'S NO TOILET FLUSHIN'.
IT'S YOUR SHOT.

THE GROVE, 1986
SO THIS BLACK GUY WALKS INTO A BAR WITH A PARROT ON HIS SHOULDER..
THE BARTENDER SAYS, "WHERE'D YOU GET THAT?" AND THE PARROT SAYS, "AFRICA, THERE'S MILLIONS OF THEM"
HA HA HA HA HA HA
HELLO, ALEJOS. HOW'S MY RUBBER PLANTS DOING?
COME ON ROMEO, WOMEN.
MANDALAY
IT'S STILL FLOWING AND IT WILL FLOW EVEN BETTER WHEN WE FINALIZE THE PAPERS TO THE KA CORPORATION.
NOW ROBERTO, WE AREN'T SUPPOSED TO WEAVE ANY DEALS HERE, BUT IF YOU'LL JUST SWING BY MY OFFICE ON MONDAY...
WE'LL HAVE THE PAPERS DRAWN UP NAMING YOU PRESIDENT OF THE NEW KA CORPORATION.
THIS SHOULD CONSOLIDATE OUR GLOBAL CONTROL INDEFINITELY.'
IT'S GREAT TO HAVE BUSINESS PARTNERS IN THE C.I.A..'

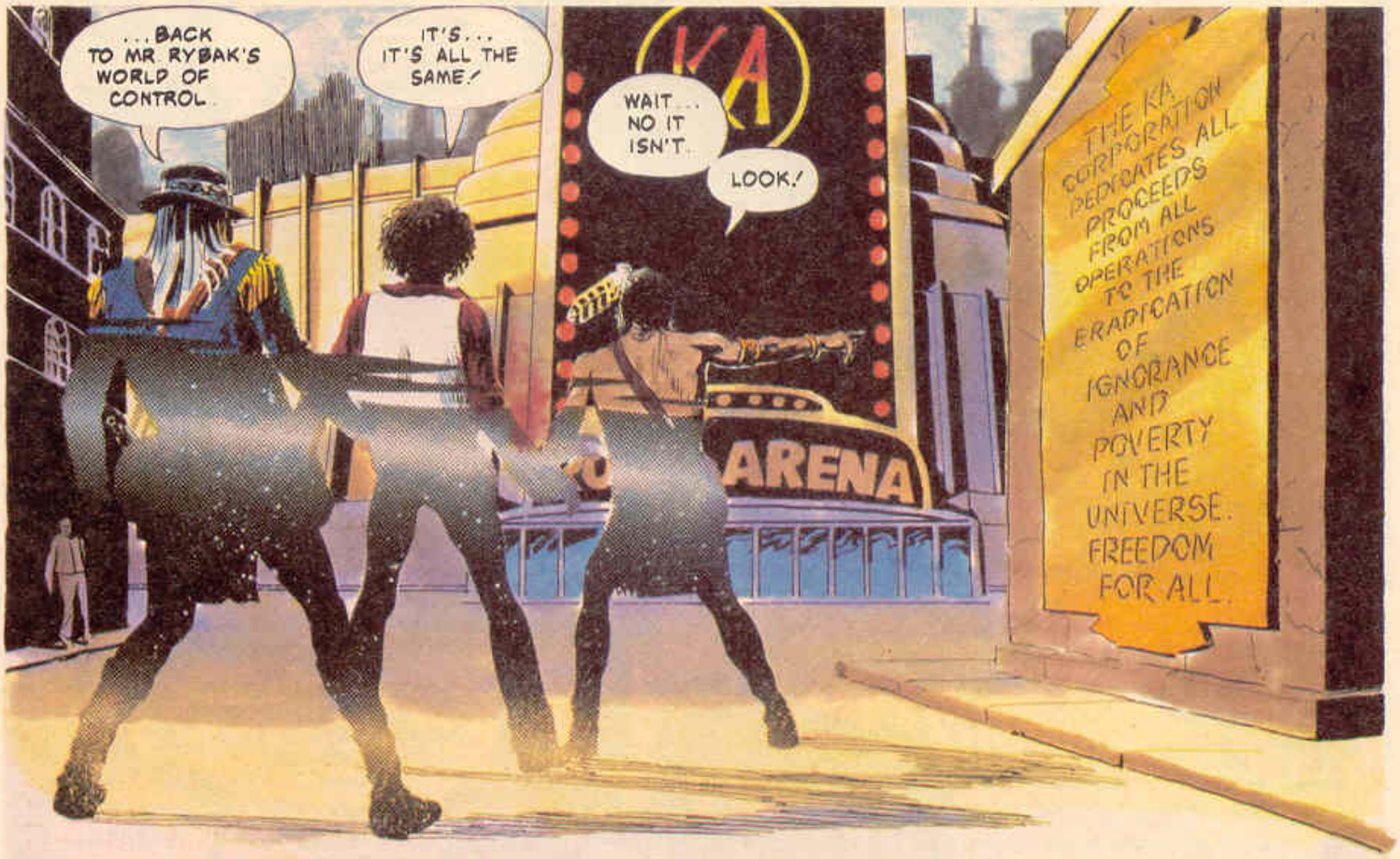
O THOU GREAT SYMBOL OF ALL MORTAL WISDOM, OWL OF BOHEMIA, WE DO BESEECH THEE, GRANT US THY COUNCIL.
"LIGHT THE FUNERAL PYRE OF DULL CARE WITH THE FLAME OF OUR FELLOWSHIP..."
O.K CUSICK, WE'VE SPIKED THEIR PUNCH WITH YOUR POTION, AND THEY'RE SURE DRINKING ENOUGH WHEN DO WE ATTACK?
"...AND SO PURGE YOURSELVES OF ALL CONCERN, RESPONSIBILITY AND..."
NOW!
"...HEY!"

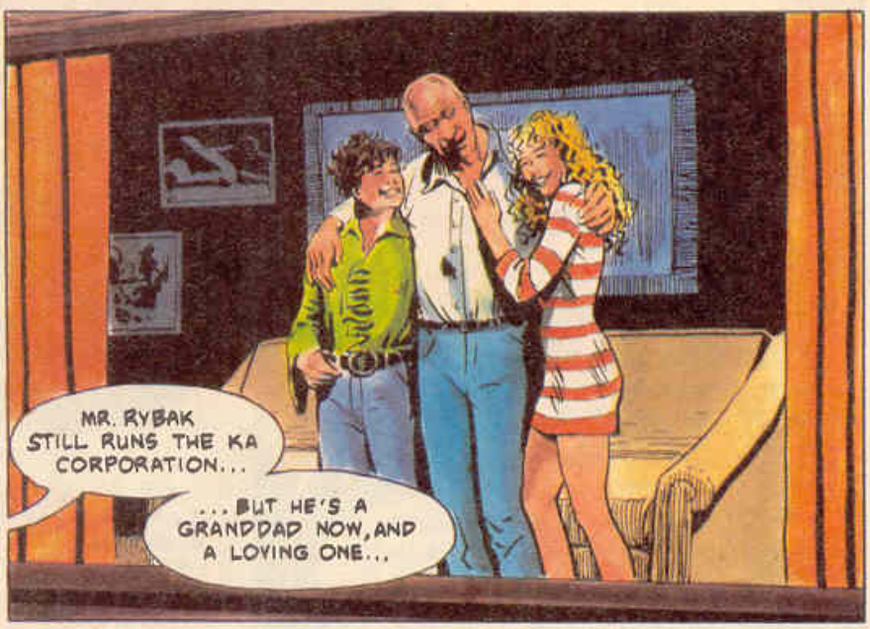
JIMI, YOU'RE DEAD.

THAT WORKED OUT PRETTY AS A RAINDANCE. HIT 'EM WITH AMPLIFIED HEAT, YOU DID, JIMI, ME BOY. THE HEAT OF THEIR OWN GUILT.
IT MIGHT NOT CHANGE THEM TOTALLY, BUT IT WILL SET 'EM ALL TO THINK THAT MAYBE ALEJO'S KA CORPORATION WON'T BE IN THEIR BEST INTEREST A FEW TIME ZONES FROM NOW

SO, CUSICK, IS THAT ALL THERE IS TO IT?
THAT'S IT, JIMI. BUT OF COURSE, THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT IF IT ALL HAD ANY EFFECT.

THAT'D BE TO FETCH OURSELVES BACK TO THE FUTURE.


...BACK TO MR. RYBAK'S WORLD OF CONTROL.
IT'S... IT'S ALL THE SAME!
WAIT... NO IT ISN'T.
LOOK!
KA
ARENA
THE KA CORPORATION DEDICATES ALL PROCEEDS FROM ALL OPERATIONS TO THE ERADICATION OF IGNORANCE AND POVERTY IN THE UNIVERSE. FREEDOM FOR ALL.



"...AND WHEN HE GOES TO WORK, IT'S TO FEED HUNGRY PEOPLE, GIVE THEM HOPE, AND A CHANCE AT LIFE. HE USES ALL THAT POWER FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND!"

WELL, LOOKS LIKE WE DID IT AGAIN, ME BOY!
YOU MEAN... NO MORE EXPLOITATION ... NO CONTROL? THEY NEVER USED ME AND MY MUSIC, THEY NEVER WARPED MY MESSAGE.
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU SAY THEY CAN TRAVEL TO OTHER PLANETS NOW? WEALTH AND POWER ARE USED IN THE NAME OF COMPASSION?
I LIKE IT HERE, I THINK I'LL STAY.
YOU HAVE INCREDIBLE POWER, JIMI, AND WOULD MAKE A FIRST-RATE TIMESPIRIT YOURSELF. STAY WITH US, WE'LL SHOW YOU THE ROPES.
C'MON, YOU COULD TEACH ME TO MAKE GUITAR MAGIC.
THANKS, MAN, BUT LIKE, I'VE FOUND MY NEXT WORLD. I LOVE YOU CHARACTERS, AND I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU.
FAREWELL, BROTHER...
COME BACK AND VISIT SOMETIME! BUT NOW, I'VE JUST GOT TO CHECK OUT WHAT THE FUTURE'S DONE FOR THE ELECTRIC GUITAR..
I...I'LL MISS HIM.
HE WOULD'A MADE A FINE MAN O' KNOWLEDGE.
MANNY'S 156
WELL, CUSICK... WHERE WE GOING NOW?
GOOD QUESTION, ME BOY.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
I'M SURE I DID. YOU MUST REMEMBER TO REMIND ME TO TELL YOU ONCE WE GET THERE. O.K., POOT?
OKAY, CUSICK.
OKAY.
T.Y. 6/85
FINEATO

Time Lines

c/o Epic Comics; 10th FL; 387 Park Avenue South; New York, NY 10016

Dear Steve Perry and Tom Yeates,

Thank you for doing **Timespirits.** In my opinion, it is the best story offered in the entire **Marvel/Epic** line. Tom, your illustrations are very effective and the latest ish was a great one.

The characters I love...The stories are full of that mysterious and essential element that recharges and revitalizes the true like impulse. What Cusick and Doot do, meaning travel through time and help people out, is something near and dear to my soul.

As a vehicle for social commentary and criticism, your future in the corporate rock world with the drugged and dazed children was perfect, the perfect analogy to today's corporate infested music world, where shrewd and often times souless individuals prey on the sensitivities of artists, and most of the acts they push and feist upon the soul hungry multitudes reek of idiocy and are redeemed only by the smell of youthful hormones, that ephemeral commodity the capitalistic society thrives on for fodder and grist for its death mill. Your stories are inspirational for me at this time. So, despite the sorry fact that trees go to the blade to produce magazines, books and record jackets, your product is one of the ones that does uplift the spirits, the **Timespirits** we all innately possess and which are usually bent and twisted out of shape by what a younger Dylan once called "society's pliers".

Although the resurrection Jimi Hendrix is not what I'd call an original thought, since the corporations seem to be doing it all the time, you handled his spirit well, and rebellious god-like quality we so admire helped to pull the story through, despite it's tendencies toward maudlin sentiments...in short, keep up the good work, and who knows, maybe in the future, the *new* government will give the land back to the American Indians!

J. Turnbew
Seattle, WA

Dear Timelines,

This is just a note of thanks for Issue #5, and what amounted to a very intriguing and very moving tribute to Jimi Hendrix. I am not an avid comic reader, but his issue both caught my eye and, particularly, my heart. Having Hendrix appear in a story concerning exploitation and manipulation in a kind of **1984** future-world is a striking concept, as well as a tragically appropriate one.

Steve Perry's depiction of the guitarist and the link that exists, even beyond death, between himself and the music he created shows a sensitivity and understanding that is unusual. What is more unusual, and refreshing, is the general reaction of the characters to Hendrix's music: "it sets the mind free...it sets free the heart." It becomes more than just "noise" or "acid rock". The music is an expression of the guitarist's soul, a soul well versed in pain, in frustration, in love and in the blues.

Tom Yeates' rendering of Jimi is beautiful and, in a way, magical. He captures the raw energy and ecstasy of a Hendrix concert, something I did not think possible in such a medium. I could easily visualize Jimi gritting his teeth, cranking his Stratocaster to "10" and suddenly, angrily, exploding into the *Star Spangled Banner.*

Thank you again for such a heartfelt, definified portrait of the great musician. You have done something here that I will never forget.

Peter Weinstein
San Diego, CA

Dear Timespirits,

Hats off to one of the best books on the market. Sooner or later this book will be ruined like so many other noble ventures, but for now you guys are in my Top Five. The first issue was pretty good, and the Spurtyn Duyvel (did I spell that right? Probably not) story was really great. Then came the capper; Varnae vs. Cusick! Issue #4 was great in so many ways I risk the sin of babbling if I start naming all the things I enjoyed. Lets just say that top-to-bottom, on any level you care to mention, **Timespirits #4** ranks right up there with the all-timers.

However, (there's always a "however") Issue 5 was pretty sophomoric. I knew from page four what was going to happen, and then had to read on to discover what I already knew. The "moral" was just a bunch of Woodstock-Hippie mumbo-jumbo, vague and simplistic and above all boring. One could see it coming a mile away and it wasn't worth waiting for. I suggest you get back on track and tell us some *stories*. I heard this kind of drivel back in 1969. When it meant something.

Keep up the great work.

Albert Sce
Brooklyn, NY

Dear People,

Timespirits is like the rest of the **Epic** line one of the finest comicbooks being produced today equal to **American Flag, Swamp Thing,** and **Mage** some of the finest comicbooks being produced in the country which produced the comics which I grew up on. Comic books are now becoming a lot better then they were a mere five years ago, more different concepts make them that way.

Steve Perry I wonder how old you are for the fact that you brought on some great rock talents from a decade and a half ago. Those sixties were not my decade for I was 12 when the sixties ended. The sixties will come back I think one day, because they were so exciting, so emotionally charged. Looking back to those days with hindsight its hard not to wish to go back to those days. The characters of Cusick is the true overaged hippy which was so common back in the sixties which disappeared from sight somewhat due to the yuppies so common nowadays. He is a free spirit and a Timespirit is the ultimate free spirit. I think I could handle that, for you're born to have it in you to be a free spirit.

The concepts behind each exciting thought provoking issue of **Timespirits** is great for it is better than watching re-runs of **Star Trek,** another product of the sixties. **Timespirits** I hope would visit the old west.

Tom Yeates' cover painting is so powerful that I am thinking of buying two copies just to put the cover up on the wall without wrecking the book. Tom Yeates, Janice Chiang, Steve Oliff makes one incredible team with Steve Perry. The creative team, I always have thought it was a bit strange to talk about people separately sometimes since the story is one piece. Without a letterer all we have is great black & white art, add a colorist of the incredible quality. Steve Oliff and you get something better than a book without his talents. Keep the team together for everything click and work.

Good luck with other **Epic Comics,** Archie Goodwin, one of the top talents in comics you are one, and got the rest willing and able to aid you, I hope.

Mark Ryan
St. Louis, MO

Dear Steve, Tom and Archie,

Wow, that was quite the unusual little tale you guys concocted for **Timespirits #5,** *"A Song and a Dance"*. Besides comics, my other great love is rock and roll (for lack of a better term) so to see the two worlds intermesh so stylishly in this way made my day.

There's so much money to be made by the music biz by exploiting impressionable adolescents that profit is supplanting the idea of art to many a talented band. Entirely too much emphasis is being placed on sales figures, concert grosses, the danceability of a record and corporate marketing strategies. Results on the bottom line are the only things that matter, not the number of critics plaudits accumulated.

The nightmarish control world Steve Perry has created this issue is unlikely to extrapolate itself without some major upheavals occurring to shake the power structures of society; it *could* happen (Nothing's impossible!) but not for many, many years to come.

The use of Jimi Hendrix's resurrection as a saviour to the oppression of corporate run zombie society is an appropriate one. His meteoric rise to the top (short as it was) was constantly plagued by record company hassles and associates who made his life a living hell. A book forward to seeing Jimi gain a measure of revenge on those who helped destroy him.

Gary Kimber
Downsview, ONT

NEXT ISSUE: A simple lesson in gathering spirits becomes a nightmare of death on the high reaches of the Himalayas courtesy of the ***Talking Fish.*** *In sixty days Cusick and Doot will feel* ***The Hand of the Yeti.*** *By the One Above! Don't miss it.*